

DPR, Tehmina Jangue
Statement by Ambassador Masood Khan, Permanent Representative of
Pakistan on the Report of the Open-ended Working Group on Optional
Protocol to the ICESCR at the Sixth Resumed Session of the HRC,
10 December 2007

Mr. President,

Pakistan appreciates the ~~hard~~ work done by Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, Chairperson of the Group. Discussions during the fourth session of the open-ended Working Group have ~~led to~~ significantly clarified different issues contained in the Optional Protocol. We are sure that working with same dedication, we can reach consensus on all the outstanding issues.

Pakistan is of the firm view that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. We feel that more deliberations are required before taking a decision on adopting a selective or comprehensive approach to the application of the Protocol. Similarly, we need to carefully look into the possibility of maintaining reservations to the Protocol, or otherwise. We also feel that further deliberations are required regarding the scope of the Protocol and other provisions such as; collective communications, admissibility criteria, interstate communications, inquiry procedures, international assistance and cooperation. *Apfrican Group comments on international cooperation!*

As regards the legal status of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), we ~~fully~~ support the initiative to ~~rectify~~ its legal status, in accordance with international law, with the aim of placing it at par with other treaty monitoring bodies.

We appreciate the paper provided by the Office of Legal Affairs on different options for placing the Committee at par with other treaty monitoring bodies. We are analyzing the different options available to us. In principle, we prefer the option which is simple and enjoys consensus.

My delegation wishes to remain fully engaged in the discussions on the Optional Protocol as well as on the question of the legal status of the CESCR.

I thank you.